

Rep. Joseph R. Pitts
Opening Statement
Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health Hearing:
“Examining Legislation to Improve Public Health”
H.R. 1192, National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission Act
H.R. 1717, Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Reauthorization
Act
H.R. 1807, Sickle Cell Disease Research, Surveillance, Prevention and
Treatment Act of 2015
H.R. 3119 Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act
H.R. 3952 Congenital Heart Futures Reauthorization Act of 2015
Thursday, September 8, 2016 (10:00 AM)

The Subcommittee will come to order.

The Chairman will recognize himself for an opening statement.

Today’s hearing will examine several different legislative proposals that will address various aspects of the Public Health Service Act.

H.R. 1192, the “National Diabetes Clinical Care Commission Act” amends the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with pre-diabetes, diabetes, and the chronic diseases and conditions that result from diabetes. Today, our witness will also be discussing potential changes to the legislation that will make it less disease specific so the focus can be broader to include related autoimmune and metabolic syndromes.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), almost 29,000,000 Americans have diabetes and an estimated 86,000,000 American adults have pre-diabetes. Diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States and is the leading cause of kidney failure.

Total national costs associated with diabetes in 2012 according to the CDC exceeded \$245 *billion*. One in three Medicare dollars is currently spent on people with diabetes.

There are 35 Federal departments, agencies, and offices involved with implementation of Federal diabetes activities. This legislation will establish a commission to evaluate and recommend solutions for better coordination of patient care and ways to control costs across all of these offices.

I thank my colleague, Rep. Pete Olson, for sponsoring this important legislation which will be welcome news for the over 100,000,000 people afflicted with diabetes or pre-diabetes.

H.R. 1717, the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Reauthorization Act or the STOP Act, sponsored by Rep. Roybal-Allard (CA) provides for programs and activities to prevent underage drinking.

H.R. 1807, the Sickle Cell Disease Research, Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act of 2015, sponsored by Rep. Danny Davis (IL) and Rep. Michael Burgess (TX) reauthorizes a sickle cell disease demonstration program. Sickle cell disease has no cure and leads to premature death. This legislation will hopefully move us one step closer to improving the quality of care and symptom management for those afflicted.

H.R. 3119, the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act, sponsored by Rep. Engel (NY) increases the number of permanent faculty in palliative care at accredited allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, nursing schools, social work schools, to promote education and research in palliative care and hospice, and to support the development of faculty careers in academic palliative medicine.

H.R. 3952, the Congenital Heart Futures Reauthorization Act of 2015, sponsored by Rep. Bilirakis (FL) coordinates federal congenital heart disease research efforts and improves public education and awareness of congenital heart disease.

Today we will hear from one panel of experts and stakeholders as to their ideas and recommendations on these various bills.